

## Western Native Trout – Managing the Threats and Building Resiliency

Symposium Co-sponsored by the Western Native Trout Initiative and the Habitat Section of the American Fisheries Society.

American Fisheries Society [annual conference](#) in Spokane, Washington, August 21-25, 2022.

Abstract submission will be open March 1 – April 8. (<https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>).

Please see the symposium abstract below and email the organizers/chairs [Julie Carter](#) (with cc to [Therese Thompson](#) and [Warren Colyer](#), co-chairs) if you're interested in presenting. Feel free to forward this information to other potential speakers.

**Abstract:** The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI), a National Fish Habitat Partnership and initiative under the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, was launched in 2006 to catalyze conservation and management of western native trout through partnerships and cooperative efforts that improve species status, aquatic habitats, and recreational opportunities for native trout anglers. Over the 15 years since WNTI's inception, climate change impacts to habitat availability have emerged as some of the most significant threats to the persistence of native trout, with native cutthroat trout habitat predicted to shrink by as much as 58% by the year 2080 as a result of increasing stream temperatures. As such, protecting remaining thermally suitable habitat – much of which will occur in forested, higher-elevation areas within watersheds – will be critical to ensure the persistence of native trout populations in the future. Changing wildfire, drought and flood regimes potentially compromise those habitats, and can be exacerbated by native trout range constrictions, non-native species invasions and habitat degradation and fragmentation, thereby posing a significant threat to the persistence of many native trout populations. In this symposium we invite presentations that explore the complex relationship between native trout and their habitats in the face of climate change, including aspects of wildfire ecology and management, building resiliency in native trout populations and habitats during drought, promoting habitat recovery and restoration opportunities following stochastic events, and reducing the impacts of non-native species on sensitive native trout populations. There are 21 species of native trout that are the focal species of WNTI and we welcome presentations on the following species: Alaska Kokanee, Alaskan Lake Trout, Alaskan Fluvial Rainbow Trout, Apache Trout, Arctic Char, Arctic Grayling, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, California Golden Trout, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden, Gila Trout, Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Little Kern Golden Trout, Paiute Cutthroat Trout, interior Redband Trout, Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout.